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FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2002      LB 584, 1073

amendments to LB 1073.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The question before the body is the adoption of those amendments. All in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. They're adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Smith. Senator, AM3158. (Legislative Journal page 1012.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to substitute AM3424 in this place. (Legislative Journal page 1314.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It's been requested for a substitution. Any objection? So ordered. Senator Smith, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. This amendment is otherwise known as LB 584. It is the so-called helmet bill. And I think an appropriate name for it would be motorcycle safety education act, as well. It basically, as you have some handouts, it basically outlines the fact that this bill would allow someone to ride a motorcycle without a helmet under certain conditions. If they take the motorcycle safety education course, they're 21 years of age, they wear protective eyewear, provide health insurance proof, they can go without a helmet. I think that this is actually the result of a compromise rather than an outright repeal where no one has to wear any helmets such as Iowa or South Dakota or Kansas...or, excuse me, such as Iowa and Colorado don't have any restrictions at all, and South Dakota, Wyoming, and Kansas have slight restrictions, basically the age, so that someone over the age of 18 years old can ride a helmet...or ride a motorcycle without a helmet. I hope that you'll review the information that is being handed out. It shows that Iowa, South Dakota, and Kansas, have lower fatality rates without a helmet law such as ours. So we're talking about trying to compare something on an equal